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LETTER DATED 5 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by Mr. Heydar Aliyev, President of the Azerbaijani Republic, issued on 5 February 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar KOULIYEV
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the President of the Azerbaijani Republic
issued on 5 February 1998

In Azerbaijan, we have recently been following with concern the situation in Armenia and all the events that have occurred there in recent days - the resignation of Levon Ter-Petrossian from the post of President of Armenia. I consider it necessary to state that Azerbaijan has firmly held the position based on a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. We shall continue to hold this position in the future as well.

I consider the ceasefire brought about in May 1994 a major achievement; and the efforts by Azerbaijan and Armenia in the intervening years have made it possible to maintain the ceasefire regime.

I state today that we shall remain faithful to the ceasefire regime and shall do everything to ensure that the ceasefire regime is maintained.

I hope that the internal situation in Armenia will soon stabilize and that we shall continue the negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan on a peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with the Lisbon principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). I believe that, with the participation and mediation of the Co-Chairmen of the Minsk Group - the Russian Federation, the United States of America and France, we shall be able to continue the peaceful negotiation process and, on the basis of what has been attained thus far, achieve complete peace in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.